

From: Ann Randall
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am appalled at the settlement proposed to settle the Justice Department's suit against Microsoft. It seems to me all the difficult, pricey work has already been done by the Department, and all that's left is for just about any objective judge to impose a monopoly-breaking penalty. Instead, it seems the department is ready to say: "OK guys, we won. Just say 'nuff, and promise to do better next time."

Meanwhile, Microsoft's arrogance continues, proving the point that they will not stop their anti-competitive practices unless forced to do so. (Examples: increased integration on XP that forces ever more use of Microsoft products; the amazing attempt to settle their dispute by further extending Microsoft influence in schools, one stronghold of Apple computers).

I worked for government many years, and we found that the only preventive measures that worked were penalties that took the profit out of noncompliance. Any penalty short of a profit-breaking penalty is simply a cost of doing business.

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